

Heber City panel hopes to create tourist mecca

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HEBER CITY — The Heber Valley may become a snowmobiling capital, if the hopes of the Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Committee are realized.

Dr. Gerald Klein presented the committee's proposal to the Heber City Council recently and received a unanimous vote to continue researching current facilities and formulating plans to make snowmobiling a winter tourist attraction in the valley.

He pointed out that summer tourism is already doing reasonably well and that snowmobiling can be the attraction that keeps business going during the winter.

He suggested that concessionaires could provide equipment and the town could participate and benefit by arranging some means of transportation that will make it easy for users to come into town for services.

As an example, he cited recent experience in West Yellowstone where snowmobilers were welcome on city streets so they could snowmobile directly to restaurants, motels and stores.

Mayor Gordon Mendenhall called attention to the "great potential in the mountains. There can be guided tours so that people can see animals. But we can't have them (snowmobilers) running around our streets."

Councilman Wayne Clegg added that "we have only one road between Heber and Midway and the state highway from north to south." However, the council agreed that, although Heber could not handle snowmobile traffic through town, the problem could be resolved by providing shuttle buses.

The council instructed the committee members to continue to pursue their ideas, identify the potential problems and come back with specific projections and suggestions tonight.

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